

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-15, 24-31 and 41 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 24 are amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4, 10-13, 15, 24, 28-31 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hashimoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,815,201) in view of Shimizu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,223,987); claims 2 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hashimoto in view of Shimizu and further in view of Saito et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,937,673); claims 3 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hashimoto in view of Shimizu and further in view of Kawakami et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,660,102); and claims 5-9 and 26-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hashimoto in view of Shimizu and further in view of Arai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,576,758). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

In particular, none of the applied references, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest an information input apparatus that includes a judging device that judges whether the apparatus is in the recording mode, as recited in independent claim 1. Moreover, none of the applied references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a method of controlling an information input apparatus that includes judging whether the apparatus is in a recording mode, as recited in independent claim 24.

Specifically, Hashimoto teaches an electronic camera for connection to an external device such as a personal computer, and a camera that captures both images and audio which are associated with the images (abstract).

Shimizu teaches a sound-making element in a camera that is provided to produce warning signals or confirming signals for the operation of a self-timer (abstract).

Saito teaches a camera that has a video camera unit to shoot a movie picture and a still camera unit to shoot a still picture so as to allow movie and still pictures to be taken simultaneously (abstract).

Kawakami teaches an electronic camera for shooting an object to store a still picture of the object in a first rotary magnetic recording medium in the form of video signals that includes a driving device and a recording device (abstract).

Arai teaches a digital electric still camera, with a CCD image sensor and a memory card for recording digital image data of picture frames photographed by the CCD image sensor (abstract).

Accordingly, Hashimoto discloses a digital camera that records a video image and sound data that are transmitted together to an outer device, but does not disclose or suggest a judging device or a step of judging whether the digital camera is in a recording mode. Moreover, Shimizu teaches outputting a sound for warning, but fails to cure deficiencies in Hashimoto in disclosing or suggesting a judging device that judges whether the effort is in the recording mode, and also fails to cure deficiencies or in Hashimoto in disclosing or suggesting a step of judging whether the apparatus is in the recording mode.

Also, neither Saito, Kawakami nor Arai cure deficiencies in Hashimoto and Shimizu in disclosing or rendering obvious a judging device that judges whether the apparatus is in the recording mode, as recited in independent claim 1, or a step of judging whether the apparatus is in the recording mode, as recited in independent claim 24. As such, these references fail to cure deficiencies in Hashimoto and Shimizu in disclosing or rendering obvious the features of independent claims 1 and 24. Accordingly, it would not have been obvious to combine these references to arrive at the claimed invention.

Because a combination of the references would not have resulted in an information input apparatus and associated method that includes a judging device that judges whether the apparatus is in the recording mode and a judging step of judging whether the apparatus is in the record mode, it would not have been obvious to combine the applied references to arrive at the current invention. Thus, independent claims 1 and 24, and their dependent claims, are

patentable over a combination of the applied references. As such, withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-15, 24-31 and 41 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Petition for Extension of Time

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